

Town of Lincoln

Budget Board Meeting

February 7, 2013

Present:

**Carl Brunetti Richard Foster Bill McManus Domenic Ricci
Paul DiDomenico Rhonda Lacombe Mike Babbitt Hagop Jawharjian
Bob Turner Maria Marcello**

Absent:

William DiBiasio

Call To Order

The meeting began at 7:32 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 24th were distributed for review.

**Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Domenic Ricci to
approve the minutes.**

**There was an amendment to the wording in the area of the use of
technology by the teachers.**

**The minutes were accepted as amended by a vote of 9-0 with Hagop
Jawharjian abstaining because he was absent on January 24th.**

Correspondence

The Budget Board received a reminder from the School Department that there will be a meeting on March 5th with the RI Department of Education regarding the schools' 2-year Capital Improvement plan.

There was correspondence from the Town Administrator regarding the Town Solicitor looking into the Water Commission's authority and provisions as requested by the Budget Board.

The Town Solicitor had already previously looked into the same question, and would forward a copy of the findings which were that provisions in the charter may comply or conflict with state regulations, and that since the Water Commission does not receive any revenues from the tax levy or money collected by the Town, they do not require approval at the Financial Town Meeting.

The authority of the Town's Finance Department to oversee Water Commission finances is debatable, and the Town Council will be setting up a subcommittee to research this.

Public Comment

Pamela Azar noted that more games are needed at the Senior Center for people who attend who have Alzheimers and dementia and may require a slower pace but still want activities that they can participate in. She was advised that the Budget Board would not be the correct forum to make such a request, and that she should bring her concerns to the Director of the Senior Center.

Ms. Azar also requested for a second time that the Budget Board seek

a forensic audit of the School Department's legal fees expenditures.

Business

Presentation on Energy Efficiency by Ameresco

Kleo Taliadouros of Ameresco (an Energy Solutions Company) presented the company's proposal to make the schools more energy efficient in return of a long term loan.

The potential savings were calculated at \$41,000 a year at the high school alone, which did not include boiler replacement and only included some window replacement.

Those were not included because the payback would take too long unless there were other schools that could conserve enough to offset the cost.

Their total capital improvement recommendations came in at \$780,000 over 10-15 years.

The length of the loan would depend upon the anticipated savings, and Ameresco would work with large banks to get the best financing options.

10% of the profit and 10% of the overhead would go to the company out of the amount of energy savings.

It was noted that once updates are done, the schools would be required to be in compliance with the current indoor air quality standards.

If anything done in the energy conservation project failed, the company would not separately guarantee those items, but there

would be manufacturer's warranties in place.

2011-2012 Audit

The Management letter will be reviewed by the Town Council at their meeting this month.

The Budget Board would prefer wait to have the Finance Director speak to the Board about it once it is reviewed by the Council and becomes available.

2012-2013 Operating Budgets

There were no new developments in the 2012-2013 Operating Budgets at the time.

School Department Technology Plan Implementation

Mike Babbitt, who attended a tour of the plan in action, is going to put together a summary of what he and other members made note of when they observed the new technology plan and will forward it to the Budget Board Chair to share with the Board and to send to School Department as well.

School Committee's Proposed 2013-2014 Budget

The School Committee accepted the Superintendent's recommendation to reduce the original recommended budget to \$49,868,249 for a total operating budget increase of \$1,341,171 or 2.76% over last year.

This includes a \$177,000 increase in the maintenance of effort, which is subject to additional revenues which are now being included in the budget.

The Budget Board discussed the fact that the schools currently have a \$2.3 million surplus and that they will take that into account along with the ability to decrease the maintenance of effort based upon revenues.

The schools' self-funded health insurance has been recommended at a level consistent with historical expenditures, and it was noted that if there ended up being more of an unexpected expense, it would be taken out of surplus.

School Committee Chair Kristine Donabedian was present and noted that enrollment figures included those in charter schools for local funding.

The Budget Board discussed the energy savings proposal and whether it would be worth it for the schools to do it.

The School Committee has not yet seen the presentation by Ameresco and it will have to be reviewed by the School Capital Committee and School Department before the Budget Board is able to deliberate on it.

The Budget Board discussed distribution of tasks in analyzing school

operating budget as well as the municipal operating budget.

The Budget Board's School Tour was originally scheduled for March 9th but the Superintendent is unable to attend so the Board will request a rescheduling to March 2nd and check availability for that day.

The Budget Board discussed the fields that have been redone and questioned whether there was an amortization schedule for the life of the fields as well as a payment schedule for the renovations that have been completed.

The Budget Board questioned how the Town would fund the \$1.9 million that is being requested for field renovations in the coming budget.

Status of Town Administrator's 2013-2014 Budget Presentation

The Town Administrator has scheduled a meeting on Monday, February 11th to present his recommended budget as it is due by charter before February 15th.

Public Comment

There was no public comment or questions at the time.

The Next Meeting of the Budget Board will be held on Wednesday, February 20th.

Adjourn

Richard Foster made a motion, seconded by Domenic Ricci, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.